

CLAIMS

1. A stringed musical instrument comprising:
 - a) a hollow body comprised of a contoured front face, a contoured back face oriented generally opposite said contoured front face, and a continuous side member extending around and between said front and back faces to form a hollow body;
 - b) an elongated neck extending from one end of said hollow body terminating in a headstock;
 - c) a sound aperture oriented in the central region of said contoured front face; and
 - d) a plurality of strings tautly oriented across said contoured front face and said sound aperture and anchored at the end of said headstock.
2. The stringed instrument of claim 1 wherein said contoured front face is generally contoured toward the user from the central region of said hollow body in the vicinity of said sound aperture to the upper right edge of said surface corresponding to the area in which the arm of a right-handed user of said instrument would rest while strumming said instrument.
3. The stringed instrument of claim 1 wherein said contoured front face is generally contoured toward the user from the central region of said hollow body in the vicinity of said sound aperture to the lower left edge of said face corresponding to the area of said front face adjacent to the intersection of said neck and said body and below the longitudinal axis of said instrument.

4. The stringed instrument of claim 1 wherein said contoured back face is generally contoured away from the user from the central region of said hollow body to the lower right edge of said face corresponding to the area of said back face on the opposite end of the instrument from said neck and below the longitudinal axis of said instrument.
5. The stringed instrument of claim 1 wherein said contoured back face is generally contoured away from the user from the central region of said hollow body to the upper left edge of said face corresponding to the area of said back face adjacent to the intersection of said neck and said body and above the longitudinal axis of said instrument.
6. The stringed instrument of Claim 1 wherein the instrument is a guitar.
7. The stringed instrument of Claim 1 wherein said neck of said instrument is twisted or skewed about the longitudinal axis of the guitar.
8. A stringed instrument comprising:
 - (a) a body, having a front side and a back side;
 - (b) a neck, extending from said body;
 - (c) strings extending across said front side of said body; wherein
 - (d) at least a portion of either said front side or said back side is contoured.
9. The stringed instrument of Claim 8 wherein:

the opposite side contours along with said front side or said back side so that said body contours in that portion.

10. The stringed instrument of Claim 8 wherein:

at the end opposite where said neck extends, said body is contoured on its front side, from the central area to the top edge, back toward a person holding said stringed instrument.

11. The stringed instrument of Claim 8 wherein:

at the end where said neck extends, said body is contoured on its back side from the central area to the top edge, away from a person holding said stringed instrument.

12. The stringed instrument of Claim 8 wherein:

at the end opposite where said neck extends, said body is contoured on its back side, from the central area to the bottom edge, away from a person holding said stringed instrument.

13. The stringed instrument of Claim 8 wherein:

at the end where said neck extends, said body is contoured on its front side, from the central area to the bottom edge, toward a person holding said string instrument.

14. The stringed instrument of Claim 8 wherein;

said contour is a smooth curve from said central area to said edge.

15. The stringed instrument of Claim 8 wherein;

said contour is essentially planar from said central area to said edge.